

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for providing configurable resources to create a computing
2 environment, the system comprising
3 a configurable communication link;
4 a plurality of hardware devices coupled to the communication link;
5 a plurality of software programs executable by the hardware devices, the software
6 programs comprising at least one of operating system software and
7 application software, wherein the computing environment comprises the
8 communication link, at least one of the hardware devices and at least one
9 of the software programs; and
10 a visual construction of the computing environment via a user interface, the user
11 interface coupled to a display screen and to an input device for generating
12 signals in response to interactions of a user, wherein
13 the user interface is configured to accept a signal which enables the user to
14 request a copy a device configuration,
15 the system is configured to make the copy of the device configuration and
16 save the copy of the device configuration in storage,
17 the user interface is further configured to accept a signal which enables the
18 user to instantiate a device from a stored configuration, and
19 the system is further configured to instantiate the device from the stored
20 configuration.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface configured to
2 accept a first signal from the input device which enables the user to specify
3 a type of operating system for use in the computing environment;
4 accept a second signal from the input device which enables the user to
5 specify a type of hardware for use within the computing
6 environment;
7 accept one or more further signals from the input device which enable the
8 user to specify software to be used within the computing
9 environment.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the user interface is further configured to:

2 accept a signal which allows the user to specify a new device to run in the
3 computing environment,
4 activate the new device, and
5 display the computing environment having the new device.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the user interface is further configured to
2 display a plurality of configurations-before accepting a first signal which enables the user
3 to specify a type of configuration.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the hardware devices comprise at least one
2 of a hand-held device, a PDA, a cell phone, a smart card, a Global Positioning System
3 device, and a Point-of-Sale terminal.

1 6. The system of claim 4, wherein the user interface is further configured to:
2 accept a signal which allows the user to specify constraints on the hardware.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein
2 the user interface is further configured to accept a signal which enables the user to
3 specify a request for shared storage;
4 and
5 the system is further configured to allocate the shared storage to be accessible
6 through at least one of the hardware devices.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein
2 the user interface is further configured to accept a signal which enables the user to
3 specify a request for private storage;
4 and
5 the system is further configured to allocate the private storage to be accessible
6 through specific devices in the computing environment for a specific user.

1 9. A system for providing configurable resources to create a computing
2 environment, the system comprising
3 a configurable communication link;
4 a plurality of hardware devices coupled to the communication link;
5 a plurality of software programs executable by the hardware devices, the software
6 programs comprising at least one of operating system software and

7 application software, wherein the computing environment comprises the
8 communication link, at least one of the hardware devices and at least one
9 of the software programs;
10 a visual construction of the computing environment via a user interface, the user
11 interface coupled to a display screen and to an input device for generating
12 signals in response to interactions of a user, wherein the user interface
13 configured to:
14 accept a first signal from the input device which enables the user to specify
15 a type of operating system for use in the computing environment;
16 accept a second signal from the input device which enables the user to
17 specify a type of hardware for use within the computing
18 environment;
19 accept one or more further signals from the input device which enable the
20 user to specify software to be used within the computing
21 environment, wherein
22 the user interface is further configured to
23 accept a signal which allows the user to specify a new
24 device to run in the computing environment,
25 activate the new device,
26 display the computing environment having the new device,
27 display a plurality of configurations-before accepting a first
28 signal which enables the user to specify a type of
29 configuration,
30 accept a signal which allows the user to specify constraints
31 on the hardware,
32 accept a signal which enables the user to specify a request
33 for private storage,
34 accept a signal which enables the user to request a copy of a
35 device configuration, and
36 accept a signal which enables the user to instantiate a
37 device from a stored configuration, and
38 the system is further configured to

39 allocate the private storage to be accessible through specific
40 devices in the computing environment for a specific
41 user,
42 make the copy of the device configuration and save the
43 copy of the device configuration in storage, and
44 instantiate the device from the stored configuration.